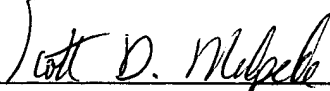


Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,533

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
NY_MAIN 226792 v 1

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APPENDIX

Application No. Not Yet Assigned
Attorney Docket No. 684.3303

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 11, 12, 16, 31 and 32 have been amended as follows:

11. (Amended) A method according to Claim 7 [9 or 10], wherein said first and second materials comprise [a] silicon nitride [is used in place of the materials as aforesaid].

12. (Amended) A method according to Claim 7 [any one of Claims 7 - 11], wherein the inversion of processing region is based on one of etch-back method, lift-off method, damascene method, and selective deposition method.

16. (Amended) A method according to any one of Claims 4 - 6 [15], wherein the second mask comprises a resist.

31. (Amended) A mold for production of a diffractive optical element, characterized in that the mold is manufactured in accordance with a method as recited in any one of Claims 1 - 4 [30].

32. (Amended) A diffractive optical element characterized in that the diffractive optical element is manufactured in accordance with a method as recited in any one of Claims 1 - 4 [30].